



Montgomery County Council

For Immediate Release

October 8, 2002

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Remarks by Council President Steve Silverman County Council, Rockville, MD October 8, 2002

I'd like to ask everyone to join me in silent prayer for our neighbors James Martin, Sonny Buchanan, Premkumar Walekar, Sarah Ramos, and Lori-Ann Lewis-Rivera – who were suddenly taken from us in the cowardly shootings of last week.

And I'd ask your silent prayers as well for the family of our dear departed Betty Ann Krahnke, whose courageous fight against Lou Gehrig's disease ended this weekend.

Much has been said – over and over again – about the violence that touched our County last week. We know that six human beings – folks who sought to build better lives for themselves, their families and others – fell victim to senseless violence visited on them by person or persons unknown. They did not seek to put themselves in harm's way. Rather, they were simply going about their business. It could have been me. It could have been you. It could have been one of our loved ones.

Our hearts go out to the victims' families – and we earnestly pray that a merciful God will extend His comfort to them in this darkest of hours. We stand behind our Police Chief Charles Moose and all the women and men under his command. We know that they are leaving no stone unturned in their zeal to find the cowards responsible for these unspeakable acts. Life is such a precious gift that those who would take it away must and will be held accountable.

Now, a word about Betty Ann.

Where do you begin? Tenacious and learned Councilmember, loving wife, caring mother. Her passion for public policy carried her from the grassroots to
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the Planning Board to this Council, where she served with distinction for nine years. With the onset of ALS came her greatest fight -- and her courage and tenacity was a marvel from which I and other Councilmembers took great heart.

Even as the malady that eventually took away her life progressed -- and after she'd left the Council -- her mind remained sharp as a pencil. She showed up for sessions about problems at the Betty Ann Krahne Center for victims of domestic violence. She wrote out a thoughtful column for a local paper on the history of Planning Board chairs, taking nearly three weeks to type it with her toes -- one letter at a time.

As recently as last Thursday, she contacted our staff director Steve Farber and quizzed him about when the bills on off-street parking and false alarms would go to Council committee.

Our thoughts and prayers -- and the thoughts and prayers of a grateful County -- go out to Wilson and to daughters Carolyn, Cathy, and Peggy. We mourn her passing, but we celebrate her life. We are, all of us, richer for having known her.

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